

TOWN OF FRANCESTOWN

OFFICE OF SELECTMEN
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BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES

January 25, 2016

Selectmen Present: Chair Abigail Arnold, Brad Howell, and Scott Carbee

Budget Committee Members: John Thalhauser, Henry Kunhardt, Stewart Brock and Charlie Pyle

Staff Present: Town Administrator Jamie A. Pike

Others Present: Bruce Harrington, Dan Fotter, Sarah Pyle, John Arnold, Tom Anderson, Ben Haubrich, Polly Freese, BJ Carbee, Benji (Monadnock Ledger), Betty Behrsing, Susan Cripps, James Gann, Guy Tolman, Dennis Orsi, and others

2016 Budget

Ms. Arnold indicated that we need to try to get a fix on the overall spending for next year. She asked the members to look at the "2016 Appropriation Summary" that Mr. Pike prepared, which shows a 4.04% increase in dollar spending over last year. Ms. Arnold explained what the increased is for and asked if the Budget Committee had any thoughts. The figures assume ½ year of Bond payments, they include ½ of the State Highway Grant reduction and it has \$3,000 of the requested \$6,000 increase for the Highway Department for truck repairs. The Fire Department has requested an additional \$1,500 to their budget for professional development and training of new members.

After discussion about the next Selectmen's Meeting on Tuesday, February 2nd, which Mr. Carbee is unable to attend due to an American Legion meeting, it was decided to meet at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 2nd, before Mr. Carbee's meeting at the American Legion later in the evening.

Mr. Kunhardt expressed that he did not like the 4% increase in spending. Ms. Arnold said they would go through the Warrant Articles and then discuss possibly cutting the budget to reduce the increase.

Warrant Articles

Mr. Pike provided an overview of each Article. The Selectmen and Budget Committee asked questions and discussed the funding and tax impact of each Article.

Article 7 adds \$597,500 to the Capital Reserve Funds. Mr. Pike indicated that \$165,000 will come from Undesignated Fund Surplus and \$432,500 from taxation. Ms. Arnold noted that the amount is \$65,000 more of Undesignated Fund Surplus than the Planning Board had talked about with the Capitol Improvement Program. There is \$50,000 more in Town building improvements than what was recommended. Discussion ensued.

Ms. Arnold explained the details of the expenses for each department in Article 7. After discussion the Board agreed to remove the language “a study of” from Article 15 regarding Police Station building needs. Ms. Arnold asked if the board wanted take money out of Article 7 and put it into Article 15 for the cement pad for the transfer station. Mr. Pike cautioned that that fund cannot be used for land improvements because its intended use is only for building improvements. Ms. Arnold indicated that Article 6 purposes “repurposing and renaming” the “Future Town Building Improvements Capital Reserve Fund” to “Future Town Facilities Improvements Capital Reserve Fund” to allow for wider use of the funds (see Article 6). The Board decided to add \$15,000 for facility improvements at the Transfer Station to Article 15. The Board and Budget Committee approve of Article 6 and Article 7 as discussed.

Article 8 Mr. Pike indicated Article 8 will add \$2,000 to the Master Plan Update Fund to be raised from Undesignated Fund Surplus. Discussion regarding the Planning Board’s budget and what is still owed to SNHPC ensued. The Board and Budget Committee approve of Article 8.

Article 9 proposes raising \$1,700,000 for 2020 replacement of the South New Boston Bridge. The Board and Budget Committee approved of Article 9.

Article 10 authorizes the Board to acquire the property on 2nd NH Turnpike South for either a cemetery or open space in exchange for the Town waiving the land use change tax due from the donor. Discussion regarding the suitability of the land ensued. The Board and Budget Committee approve of Article 10.

Article 11 proposes raising \$210,000 to purchase a rescue truck for the Fire Department. The cost will come out of the Capital Reserve Fund. The Board decided to add language indicating that \$190,000 will come from Capital Reserve Fund and \$20,000 will come from the Fire Department funds.

Article 12 proposes to raise \$180,000 to purchase a payloador for the Highway Department to come from the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund. The Fund currently has \$144,000 and the Town will deposit \$115,000 into the Fund this year.

Article 13 proposes to raise \$125,000 for reconstruction of the end of Pleasant Pond Road to the Deering town line. The Town will deposit \$170,000 this year and take out \$125,000 with the balance remaining to build toward Bible Hill Road Construction scheduled for 2018.

Article 14 would allow video recording and broadcast of Board/Committee meetings. The meetings would be streamed through our Virtual Town Hall website. The cost would be \$200 per month. \$1,800 is for the balance of 2016. In subsequent years the costs would be carried in the general operating budget.

Article 15 is to raise \$76,000 for building town projects plus \$15,000 for the Transfer Station cement pad for a total of \$91,000. Funds would be withdrawn from Future Town Building Improvements Capital Reserve which may be renamed to Future Town Facilities Improvements Capital Reserve.

Article 16 is to raise and appropriate the sum of \$21,755 for milfoil treatment at Scoby Pond, \$8,702 raised from grants (40%) and \$13,053 to be raised by taxation.

Article 17 proposes to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,000 to fund milfoil prevention efforts at Pleasant Pond by funding boat monitors from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

Article 18 proposes to adopt an ordinance to require mandatory recycling at the Francestown Transfer Station.

Article 19 proposes to establish a property tax exemption for solar system installations for 100% of the amount of the assessed value. The assessor told Mr. Pike that in 2016 he will be assessing and placing values on solar installations.

Ms. Arnold commented that these are the warrant articles so far but others may come in before next week. Mr. Pyle wanted to confirm that Tuesday, next week at 5:00 p.m. will be a meeting for discussion and voting on the warrant articles and then the Budget Hearing is Thursday the 4th at 7:00 p.m. He added that the Budget Committee may communicate about getting together the following week to talk about the Town Report for the Town Meeting.

Ms. Arnold wanted to discuss the budget increase. She said the bond increase alone is about 1.5%. She said it should be discussed if this is not where the Town wants to be. There was a short discussion.

Police Department Hours

There was some discussion regarding tracking administrative hours versus patrol hours in the Police Department last week. If the Selectmen do anything in this regard it will be pursued with Chief Douglas separately.

Monadnock Disposal Service Agreement

A 5-Year Agreement with Monadnock Disposal Service to provide recycling containers, maintenance and transportation of waste to a licensed disposal facility was before the Board for review and approval. Ms. Arnold indicated that the Monadnock Disposal contract has not been reviewed by Town Counsel. She said that according to Mr. Pike it is the same contract

that Monadnock Disposal has with Bennington and Bennington has the same Town Counsel that Frankestown has. Thus, the Board decided to sign the contract now and hold until Town Counsel has an opportunity to review and approve the language.

A motion was made by Mr. Howell to approve and sign the Monadnock Disposal Agreement contingent upon Town Counsel's approval, seconded by Scott Carbee. **Motion passes.**

Consent Agenda

- A. Payroll and Accounts Payable Manifests as of 1/19/16 and 1/25/16

A motion was made by Scott Carbee to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Brad Howell. **Motion passes.**

Items to Sign

- 1. Agreement with Monadnock Disposal Service
- 2. Report Cut for Map 3 Lot 29-1 and 30, Cross Road

Liaison Report

Mr. Carbee attended a SAC meeting at SAU and reviewed the proposed budget for this school year. Mr. Carbee stated that for the last three years the Conval budget has gone down but they are 2 million dollars short from last year on State Aid Packages they used to receive because of legislature hold ups. He also indicated that there are over 100 home-schooled children within the 9-town District. Although the children can access all the school amenities, staff and facilities, the school gets no State Aid for the children if they are not enrolled. The loss of businesses in the District has resulted in the declining school population. They are trying to deal with Peterborough to create an economic engine and welcome businesses into the community.

Mr. Howell spoke about a recent Heritage Commission meeting. He indicated that, unfortunately, the Town has not reached the goal needed to begin restoration of the Town Hall. Although the shortfall is over \$300,000 they will look into other fund raising strategies so that work can go forward in the future. They will meet with an LCHIP representative next week.

Mandatory Recycling and Transfer Station Ordinance

Ms. Arnold asked Mr. Pike to post the Proposed Ordinance for public comment. The Board asked that the Ordinance be compared to the Transfer Station Disposal Agreement to make sure it is compatible with the requirements of the Town. In §6 Fees, Mr. Howell noted that he thought the word 'unique' should be changed to 'certain' and the language 'will require payment' should read 'may require payment.' Mr. Carbee said there should be no charge for Freon appliances as they get paid for the Freon and the metal goes into the scrap metal pile. He also noted there was no reference to construction debris. Ms. Arnold agreed that construction debris should be added and indicated the 5th bullet in §3 should be reworded. Ms. Arnold asked Bruce to make sure that this is what the Waste Committee wants because it

needs to be on the Warrant for them to vote on it. He said he would get in touch with Ms. Moul. Mr. Carbee objected to the language in §7 regarding adjusting the hours without a hearing, he stated a hearing should be held for everything. He added that §12 Penalty, had to be clarified; who would make the decision? Ms. Arnold asked that the issue be referred to Town Counsel.

Correspondence

1. Police Department Press Release for 1/11/16 through 1/17/16
2. Police Department Job Tasks Reports dated 1/19/16 and 1/25/16
3. Letter from NH DOT notifying the Town that DOT has processed the request for reimbursement of costs for Juniper Hill project. Mr. Pike indicated it has been received.
4. Petition for a Warrant Article to be voted at Town Meeting
5. Copy of a letter from NH DES to William Whole requesting additional information to determine whether their underground storage tanks are in compliance.
6. Notice of Decision from Hillsborough Superior Court granting the Town's *Motion to Allow Public Auction or Destruction of Property* regarding the disposal of firearms being held by the Police Department as evidence, with no case association. Chief Douglas has asked that the Board decide which method they choose. Ms. Arnold asked that Chief Douglas be present for that discussion. Mr. Carbee wants to have the guns appraised.
7. Invitation from Monadnock Community Hospital for a Legislative Breakfast on February 19, 2016 at 7:30 a.m. at the Hospital
8. Letter from Kris Holmes to the Board of Selectmen resigning from the position of Town Historian. Mr. Pike will post the vacancy and draft a thank you letter.
9. Letter from Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission regarding the 2015 Traffic Counting Program. Mr. Pike will request an electronic copy.

Administrative Update

Mr. Pike indicated:

- He has reconciled the books for the Town Clerk and Tax Collector.
- All the 1099 Tax filings were completed.
- NRRRA will release the Town from the contract. Mr. Pike will coordinate a rolling change-over as soon as he hears back from Town Counsel.
- Town Report is progressing. Marti is missing a few reports but overall we were impressed by the responsiveness of the departments. Conservation Commission has been sending nature photos for use in the Report.
- Geo thermal system was worked on today. Contoocook Well replaced parts and removed the Lakos filter and installed a smaller pressure tank. They will return tomorrow morning to fire up the system. Contoocook Well can maintain the system as plumbers but they do not work on air handlers and filters. Pinney Plumbing can supply and replace the filters in the air handlers for \$245.00. The Board wants to have the filters replaced by Pinney.

- Report of Cut and a Timber Tax Assessment for Map 3 Lot 29-1 & 30. The Board approved the Cut.
- Mr. Pike suggested keeping the Selectmen's Office at the Town Office open on Tuesday evening from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. to match the Town Clerk's office hours. Mr. Pike stated he would cover the additional hours himself which would be offset by late arrival on Wednesday or Thursday. The Board agreed. Mr. Pike indicated the additional hours will start next week.

Ms. Arnold suggested that, given her current ankle injury and upcoming surgery, Brad Howell take over as Chairman of the Board of Selectmen until her recovery and return.

A motion was made by Ms. Arnold to make Mr. Howell Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, seconded by Brad Howell. Scott Carbee, opposed. **Motion passes.**

Public Questions

Mr. Gann asked if there is a DRA recommendation as to what the reserve percentage of the budget should be. Ms. Arnold responded that she thought it was 8 to 18% of gross appropriations. He asked about leasing a loader rather than purchasing a loader. Ms. Arnold said it had been considered in the past.

John asked what the actual reserve percentage is currently. Ms. Arnold was not sure but thought it was around 10%. Then he asked why the unclaimed weapons would be disposed of rather than sold. He thought there may be a way around the risk and that the Town should sell them to make money.

Mr. Tolman asked why home schooled children are permitted to participate in and use school facilities if the school is not receiving any State aid for those children. Mr. Carbee replied "Federal Law." He also asked why Scott Carbee wasn't appointed to replace Ms. Arnold as Chair of the Board of Selectmen when Mr. Carbee is senior to Mr. Howell. Ms. Arnold declined to give an explanation.

BJ Carbee asked Ms. Arnold to give a Liaison Report for the Planning Board. Ms. Arnold indicated they have been working on zoning amendments.

Mr. Gann said he thought the Town would lose tax revenue if the Town accepts the Taylor land donation and offered scenarios in which the Town would gain revenue if the property was sold and built on.

Dan Fotter wanted to thank Mr. Carbee for the liaison report on the schools. He commented that it would be nice if each person would stand up and do an introduction.

Polly Freese indicated that the Keith quadruplets, who used to live in Frankestown, are now old enough to vote.

Mr. Tolman asked if April is considered winter for the purpose of traffic counts. Mr. Carbee said December through April is considered winter.

Polly Freese complained about the traffic coming from the ski area's Midnight Madness on Friday and Saturday nights and said it would be nice to have an officer from the Police Department on duty that night. Ms. Arnold asked if she had contacted the Police Department. Ms. Freese said she had not but she will. She would like to see traffic counts on that road as well. Ms. Arnold stated that counts are being done on that road.

NEXT BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING: Tuesday, February 2, 2016 at 5:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: Ms. Arnold adjourned the meeting at 7:35 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jamie A Pike

Not approved until signed.

Abigail Arnold

Scott S Carbee

Brad Howell